



SPADEWORK

July 2026 Newsletter

Editor: Julie Downs



President Michele imagines . . .

. . . let's run a tournament. Should be easy!!!!

Checklist:

- ☐ Register tournament with NZB
 - ☐ Design a flyer
 - ☐ Upload flyer to NZB website
 - ☐ Appoint a Scorer and a Director
 - ☐ Monitor entries
 - ☐ Monitor online payments
 - ☐ Purchase raffle items
- ☐ Arrange raffle display and purchase sheet. Arrange for sales personnel
- ☐ Find volunteers to run the kitchen – morning, lunch and post tournament
- ☐ Organise a roster to bring food for morning tea
 - ☐ Purchase food for nibbles after play
 - ☐ Purchase drinks
 - ☐ Arrange for Bar staff
- ☐ More volunteers to prepare and serve food after play
 - ☐ Deal the boards
 - ☐ Check the Bridgemates
- ☐ Ensure Compass has the correct data for the tournament
- ☐ Email all players prior to the tournament
- ☐ On closing of entries, spreadsheet lists of players and payments for on the day registration
 - ☐ Calculate prize money.
- ☐ Print envelopes for the prizes and fill each with correct allocation.
- ☐ Liaise with the Director /Scorer re the tournament set up
 - ☐ Set up playing room to accommodate the tournament format
 - ☐ Organise and supervise registration
- ☐ On the day of the tournament help with any issues
 - ☐ Present prizes and draw raffle
- ☐ After the tournament clean up and restore rooms to club playing layout
 - ☐ Complete a tournament review

No, it is not easy!!!!!! This is what I see Teri, Julie and Gilda doing for each tournament we run (if I have missed tasks, I apologise). I am in awe of their work and on behalf of the club thank them very much.

Michele

the next **Spade** for our new column is

Jo Craig - a member who has sponsored, excelled, mentored Monday night players and others, a hard worker that values our club. Jo writes -

In our Club's programme Wednesday afternoon sessions are promoted as "No need for a partner – casual play, discussions. No need to book, no need to arrive on time either". It all sounds curiously countercultural in the world of bridge.

Plenty of members turned up on a sunny, July Wednesday. There were no Bridgemates to track scores, no Masterpoints or prizes on offer, and the competition would be, well, unpredictable. So – why? As a regular attendee, I decided to survey my Wednesday friends to find out the answer to that question. I was also interested in how long this cohort of players had been playing and their reasons for learning bridge.

The answer to the first question was adeptly summarised by the person who responded, "the learning and the laughs". The non-threatening, friendly, convivial learning environment came out "tops" as the reason for return visits. Attendees mostly are, predominantly, but not exclusively, retired. The range of skills and experience represented in the room is quite remarkable. Name it and we have it. We come from a mixed background: we are business & health management administrators, librarians, technicians, tradies, advisors, real estate agents, farmers, lawyers, dentists, health professionals, retailers, creatives, artists, carers, hospitality experts & bankers. Did I mention a disproportionate number of teachers and accountants?! The best thing is that it doesn't even matter. Not a jot. Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday afternoon players are a fit bunch – the vast majority report that their favourite physical activity is walking and/or playing golf. I had to ask the question about the players' ages because obviously our group look ridiculously young. Let's just say that no one is younger than 56.

Wednesday afternoon session is perfect for those who want to improve. This is consistent with the finding that most of the players play twice a week and have been playing for less than 5 years. For a reasonable number of people, they only play bridge on Wednesday afternoons. It's a niche session.

And what motivated these Club members to start playing bridge in the first place? Significantly, a third joined in because they wanted to meet people, make new friends and have some fun. The other reasons were to learn something new, challenge the brain, take up a new hobby and/or because a friend, daughter, aunty, neighbour or Julie Sheridan recommended it.

Wednesday afternoon sessions provide more junior players with opportunities to benefit from the generosity of more senior players. A big thank you to them. And to Bernie for playing host to a mixed bag of fledgling bridge players who sometimes enjoy the laughs more than the learning.

So, if you find yourself at a loose end on a Wednesday afternoon, come along and join in. You will be welcome. If you don't have a few laughs or learn something, I'll refund your \$4.

CLUB RESULTS

Mondays June'26 **Dorothy Aitken
Handicap Pairs**

Mondays 2026 **Championship
Handicap Singles**

Mondays 2026 **Championship
Singles**

Wednesdays July '26 **Pacific Pairs**

Thursdays July '26 **Harcourts Handicap
Pairs**

1st Dot Forbes & Ruth Pepper
2nd Sue Gibbons & Carol De Luca
3rd Patty Spencer & Dot Skousgaard

1st Flo Nield
2nd Julie Downs
3rd Chris Gibson

1st Julie Downs
2nd Julie Sheridan
3rd. Flo Nield

1st Graham Stern & Bettina Dudley
2nd Marcus Dudley & Steve Larnder
3rd Judith Somerville & Helen Charteris

1st Kay Kinder & Gydene Parker
2nd. Rae Holmes & Teri Logie
3rd Bill Ridley & Barbara Stimson

WELCOME to NEW MEMBERS

*Sue Dalzell

*Thea Straub

*Beverley
Petersen

*Lorraine
Hickey

*Sue Arnold

*Judith Russell

accolade



the 1st weekend of July saw two club members compete in the National NZ pairs held at the Tauranga Club. Our pair, **Graham Stern and Alan Parkes**, seeded 21/32, finished 4th place. Asked if this success would lead to International selection or more, Graham wryly replies, Noooo . . . but big congrats anyway.

Also, congratulations to **Marcus Dudley** on becoming a **Life Master**, achieving 264 A points and 359 B points.

Your bridge results from X-Clubs

Did you know that, since its inception in 2013 and while there are 53 of 118 clubs taking part, we still hear from time to time "X-Clubs?? What's that?". What's not to like about taking part?

Members - it's easy. On our own website click 'RESULTS', hover to X-clubs and click.

There you will find sooooo much - results by week, handicap and gross, analysis of every hand, blogs and more. Selecting 'Wide view' from horizontal menu is best.

For example for Friday 24th July (when over 53 clubs are playing exactly the same hands), showed that Frances Ball and Steve Larnder scored 68.46%, and ranked 3rd out of 405 pairs!

Warning! you need a rainy day to explore this site, it's interactive and finally, their bye line, "because bridge is really important"

Hello to Bob Callcut

now residing in Whakatane - hope to see you playing at the Whakatane tournament when some Mt players will attend. Alternatively, look for **totara**, Bob's avatar on BBO . . .

and welcome home to Joanne and Alan McLean

after 5 months in Boston with family. "played bridge while you were away?" Yes, at MIT University. "wow what was that like?" well, very intense - slow precision bidding (we had to swot up the system) and director called for the slightest hesitation. Only a small group of players but including vocal Russians, X dressers, university staff and our 2 kiwis. Undaunted, Joanne and Alan had to walk through snow, ice and sleet for 1/2 hour from home to attend.

A good practice was 'never a phantom'. Scoring tablets were programmed to fill in for a missing pair so for one round, the computer became the opposition.

Joanne & Alan, always a towering partnership, now with international experience!

as noted below,

Our esteemed Treasurer Janice is away until late August which means that at the end of July, your account balances in Compa\$\$ will be delayed, however, please keep crediting money into your account equal to how many times you play.

recently **Detour Theatre**, Historic Village, staged the play "Exit Laughing" by Paul Elliott which was promoted amongst our members because of a tenuous connection to bridge.

The backdrop for the play was home bridge night, but one member's funeral had been held that day.

So partner uplifted Mary's urn and declared "they always carpooled so would be expecting to be collected and she could be dummy". But the night quickly shifted from bridge with the arrival of a stripper, to personal revelations, drinking and sex chat - with the upshot of generous bequests from Mary, happy friends, and the declaration that on death, all remaining members would "Exit Laughing".

Another bridge foursome also having fun is Judith George, Judy Waldvogel, Janice Simpson and Kay Burnie. The quartet, along with Joan are currently in Europe on a barge and bike adventure. Departing Passau, Germany, they cruise down the Danube to Budapest going ashore each day to cycle 50km on the barge trails. All meals, packed lunch and overnight to the next stop off.

Bridge evenings as well perhaps?

And from Annie Barry, also heading down the Danube - "last drama happened yesterday. Got trapped in a tiny lift in old apartment building (30C +, no air, no emergency phone and squashed between our luggage). We managed to escape in the end and looks like we'll be throwing our luggage out the 3rd story window because we're not getting near the lift again! Onwards and upwards and off to the Viking cruise and then down the Danube. Accordingly however the Danube has dried up a tad so will be taking a bus to the first port of call".

Saturday 18th July saw raised blood pressures, sudden phone calls, urgent partnership arrangements and a delayed start for what was to be our annual flagship

Intermediate, Junior and Novice Tournament.

in the end, a great outcome.

Tournament Secretary Gilda Rowland along with Teri, Julie S, President Michele, the scorer and director Norm expertly reorganised play after several 'no shows'.

Players who came on time happily chatted, reviewed systems, snacked on the copious morning tea spread and then enjoyed play.

Even when running smoothly, these events take a lot of input from many willing members with an 0830 start for some -

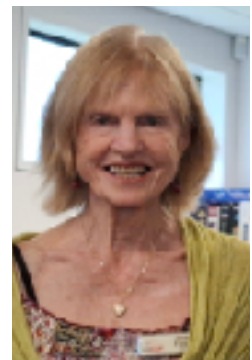
and after most have gone - reinstate tables and room, vacuum, take rubbish, lots of glasses and dishes, cloths washing, toilets replenished, benches wiped and finally lights off and lock up 7pm.



and on the day,
emergency pairings in
Intermediate section
outplayed established
partnerships.

Left - Joanne McLean &
John Strawbridge 7th

Right - Richard Roberts
& Jenny Fraser 11th.





Happy Wayne Hunter w Michele.
6th Junior pairing w partner Kerrily
Hodgson

Commendable - two
players straight from
the lessons into
tournament play -
Linda Oxenham
and
Verity Latimer
4th in the
Novice Section
well done!



Alison Thompson & Sue Ranger
1st Novice Section.

BOP Interclub Teams were hosted by the Rotorua Bridge
Club Sunday 26th July.
Six clubs, Mt Maunganui, Te Puke, Tauranga, Rotorua,
Taupo and Whakatane each furnished a team of four
Juniors, four Intermediates and an Open team.
Mt Maunganui won the Open
Te Puke the Intermediate
Rotorua the Junior
and, over all sections, hosts Rotorua claimed the Shield.
And Mt Maunganui a commendable 2nd.

Right - Open section winners BOP Interclub.
no time to pose for a photo - too busy choosing their
Whittakers big block of chocolate prizes.

members -
Graham Stern
Alan Parkes
Rachelle Pelkman
Murray Wood

Rotorua's big shield to the right.



Left - from 1966 NZ Bridge publication - ad to keep
tidy bridge club records